THC
(Marijuana)

(Select Slide Show on the PowerPoint toolbar and then select Start Slide Show From the Beginning. Otherwise the links will not function.)

Learning Objectives

- Identify from a list the different forms THC comes in.
- Describe how THC affects the human body.
- Identify from a list the different ways THC can be consumed.

What is THC?

- **Delta 9 – Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient in marijuana that causes users to feel *high*.**
- **Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind-altering drug.**
- **Psychoactive drugs produce a mind state similar to that of psychosis.**

What is THC?

- **Marijuana and THC are psychologically addictive.**
- **Marijuana and alcohol have come to be known as *gateway drugs*.**
- **Classified by the DEA as a Schedule I Controlled Substance.**

Types of THC

1. **Marijuana**
2. **Hash/Hashish**
3. **Hash Oil**

How is THC Consumed?

- **<u>Smoking</u> – Marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.**

- **<u>Eaten / Drank</u> – The chemicals in marijuana are absorbed into the small intestines.**

- **<u>Mixed w/ Other Drugs</u> – Marijuana is sometimes smoked with cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, PCP and other drugs sprinkled on.**

Effects of THC

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth / Throat
- Increased Heart Rate
- Respiratory
- Lowered Blood Pressure
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Vivid Hallucinations
- Panic / Anxiety Attacks
- Psychosis
- Dependence

Effects of THC - Smoking

- Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.
- Smoking marijuana can cause:
  - Bronchitis
  - Lung Cancer
  - Brain Damage
- Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to become inactive.

Effects of THC

Male Specific:

- Reduces the male hormone testosterone
- Can cause sex organs to not function properly.
- Greatly reduces sperm count

Female Specific:

- Testosterone levels increase
- Decreased sexual pleasure
- Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation

Effects of Withdrawal

While the effects of withdrawal have been described as mild and non life-threatening, they do include:

- **Severe anxiety**
- **Lack of pleasure**
- **Severe headaches**
- **Nausea**
- **Inability to sleep**

Testing for THC in the Army

- THC can be detected in urine for up to 30 days.
- The Army tests every specimen for THC
- The illegal use of THC or any drug goes against Soldiers Values.

Additional Information

Additional information on THC can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting http://www.acsap.army.mil.